

# villagenews

February 2025 Issue 5, Volume 15

A monthly magazine for the residents of Hopton-on-Sea **FREE**

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News Magazine

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Picture of the  
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## ALSO IN THIS EDITION:

- The Humble Herring!
- New Norfolk Constabulary Beat Manager for Hopton
- Music and Tapas at the Village Hall
- Mobile Library 2025 dates



- Travel Blog
- Village People
- Youth Club News



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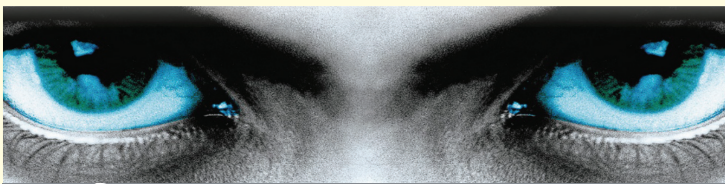
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February 2025

dear reader,

We hope you enjoy reading your monthly copy of Village News.

If you have a news article or something you would like published, please get in touch, using the contact details below.

### advertising sales

If you are interested in advertising within this magazine, which is delivered free of charge to 1400 homes in Hopton every month and published on the Parish Council's website, then get in touch.

t 01502 730768  
e hoptonparishclerk@hotmail.com  
w www.hopton-on-seapc.info

### production credits

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Hopton-on-Sea, NR31 9BE

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Great Yarmouth, NR30 3LA

### publication dates

Please submit material by the **12th February** for consideration in the next edition.

**Julie McNair**  
hoptonparishclerk@hotmail.com

### Useful Contact Numbers

Hopton-on-Sea Parish Council	01502 730768
Hopton Village Hall	01502 730768
Great Yarmouth Borough Council	01493 856100
Norfolk County Council	03448 008020
Hopton Primary School	01502 730489
Hopton Medical Centre	01502 732246
Hopton Dental Surgery	01502 732124
Hopton Pharmacy	01502 733876
Hopton Co-Op	01502 731628
Hopton McColls/Post Office	01502 733617
Bus Times Information	0871 2002233
Cliff Park Ormiston Academy	01493 661504
Gas Emergency Service	0800 111999
Emergency Police/Fire/Ambulance	999
Norfolk Constabulary (Gorleston Police Station)	101 non emergency
James Paget Hospital	01493 452452
NHS Direct	111 for non emergency
Samaritans	01493 842800

# Welcome to Hopton

If you are new to Hopton, welcome!

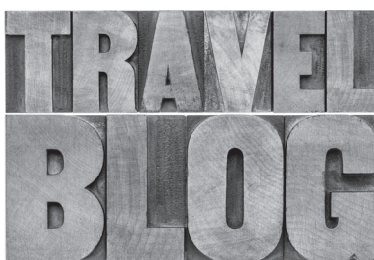
A copy of Village News will be delivered through your door every month.

It should help you keep in touch with what's going on in Hopton. If you have any queries or we can help in any way please contact Julie, Clerk to the Council on 01502 730768 or pop into the Office at the Village Hall, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9.30am to 1.30pm.

The Parish Council's website also has information at the click of a mouse.

[www.hopton-on-seapc.info](http://www.hopton-on-seapc.info)

We look forward to seeing you at one of the many events being held throughout the year in the village. There is also a Hopton Residents Facebook page (managed by residents).



### Winter Sun in Lanzarote

We are a couple in our mid 60s with two grown up sons who see us at Christmas but not at New Year. We have had a few all-inclusive deals with Jet2 holidays which turned out well, so we decided last year to take a New Year break with them to a hotel in Lanzarote, flying from Stansted, as we know there is a good chance of sun there and temperatures over 20 degrees centigrade.

The hotel was 4 star and beautifully decorated. There were 4 outdoor pools and a small spa. It was right on the beach with a lovely promenade to walk along to local shops, restaurants, a marina and craft market. We did an excursion to the Natural park, with its volcanic landscape and a vineyard and were able to walk in nature for miles from the hotel itself too. The rooms were quiet and you could sit and read with the French doors wide open onto the balcony and view. Entertainment in the evening was top class and on New Year's Eve the food was amazing- ice statues, lobster, chocolate fountain etc etc. We had a proper party, dancing outdoors. For £1500 each for 6 nights, it was pretty good value. So, we went again this year. It has gone up a little for next year but I would recommend it to anyone wanting a great New Year.

*Diana Harrington, Gorleston.*

If any residents would like to share their travel adventures, please get in contact.

## COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Make some room in your diary to support a local event.

### Are you involved in organising a local event?

Let us know and we can spread the word.

Contact [hoptonparishclerk@hotmail.com](mailto:hoptonparishclerk@hotmail.com) or phone **01502 730768** and speak to Julie. Copy deadline is 12th of each month for inclusion in the following monthly edition.

- ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH:** Every Sunday at 11am Service
- LITTLE FOOTPRINTS:** Every Thursday at the church 9.15 to 11.15am (term time only)
- DROP IN AT THE CHURCH:** Every Monday 10 to 12. All welcome.
- YOUTH CLUB:** Every Friday 7 – 9pm during term time.

### Dates for your Diary

**2025**

- **Saturday 15 February 2025.**  
Music and Tapas in the Village Hall  
6.30pm/food from 7pm. Tickets £20  
(bring your own drink) from Carole  
07999318803
- **Saturday 12 July 2025.**  
Party in the Park at the Recreation  
Ground.

To find out what's on at Hopton Village Hall, view their website [www.hopton-on-seavh.info](http://www.hopton-on-seavh.info) or phone **01502 730768** and speak to Kye to book a party or event.  
Parish Council website: [www.hopton-on-seapc.info](http://www.hopton-on-seapc.info)

# An update from SNAP (Safer Neighbourhood)

**SNAP was looked at by a higher authority to see whether it was viable continuing.**

It was decided that it was and all meetings will continue. The difference being, there will be no voting for priorities anymore. If people raise issues, all of them will be looked into via their Beat Managers and updates given as necessary.

Hopton has been allocated a new Beat manager, Joe Pike who has previously been in post as Magdalen beat manager and a past PSCO.

I raised the motorbikes through Warren Road. They are aware of historic offences, and will keep a note but they have advised that if it happens at anytime, it needs reporting every time, so they can keep record and try and catch the culprits, although they admit trying to catch bikers through that road is quite a tricky situation!

Another lady from Hopton also raised concerns about speeding vehicles along the A47. The police have it noted, and explained about NCC's ruling about speed cameras etc.

Since the meeting I have reported the increase of empty alcohol bottles being left inside the Ruin on Coast Road. The Police will carry out more patrols.

**Next SNAP meeting is Thursday 3rd April 2025**

*Zandra (Hopton resident)*

# Have you considered volunteering?

Volunteering is a fantastic way to support people, and research shows that volunteering can boost happiness and confidence. There are plenty of ways to get involved, and anyone, regardless of age, can make a difference.

Volunteering helps build connections, bringing people together and fostering friendships. It's a great way to meet new people, develop skills, and take pride in our communities. Norfolk & Waveney boasts beautiful countryside, tight-knit villages and bustling market towns and our volunteers help keep this special part of the country strong, united, and supported.

By giving just a few hours a week or more, you can have a real impact on the lives of those around you. You're not only improving life for others but for yourself. Whether it's helping at your local hospital, supporting the vulnerable to stay in their own homes or return home after a hospital stay, or driving them to their non-urgent medical appointments, assisting Voluntary Norfolk behind the scenes or helping with community initiatives, every contribution counts.

Visit Voluntary Norfolk at [www.voluntarynorfolk.org.uk](http://www.voluntarynorfolk.org.uk) to explore roles that, with your time and energy, will make a real difference.

You'll be amazed by the positive impact you can have and how rewarding it feels to lend a hand!

**VOLUNTARY NORFOLK Services**  
 Volunteer Engagement Coordinator  
 Mobile: 07384 113998.  
 Mondays to Friday, 8:00 – 16:00,  
 except Wednesday when I finish at lunchtime

**Voluntary Norfolk, Units 4-6, 83-87 Pottergate, Norwich, NR2 1DZ**  
[www.voluntarynorfolk.org.uk](http://www.voluntarynorfolk.org.uk)

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# YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

**Hopton on Sea Parish Council meetings** take place on the dates listed below commencing at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

The Agenda is published on the Parish Council's website. Details are shown in the three noticeboards in the parish. A public forum takes place during each monthly session where you can raise issues that are of concern to you.

**Parish Council website:**  
[www.hopton-on-seapc.info](http://www.hopton-on-seapc.info)

**Meeting dates 2025:**

**10 February, 10 March, 14 April, 12 May, 9 June, 14 July, 11 August, 8 September, 13 October, 10 November, 8 December.**

Your Parish Cllrs are:-

Jan Windsor-Luck	Chairman	07941145152
Sue Hacon	Vice-Chairman	01493444271
Steve Ames		01502731759
Keith Bradley		07561266209
Yvonne Bradley		07879284973
Kevin Lee		07850555864
Pamela Oakes		07850584679
John Plaskett		07836251345
John Tonks		07956873232

Julie McNair, Officer of the Council  
 01502730768 (message service)  
 e-mail: [hoptonparishclerk@hotmail.com](mailto:hoptonparishclerk@hotmail.com)

**County/Borough Cllrs for Bradwell South and Hopton Ward**

E-Mail: [Cllr.Carl.Annison@great-yarmouth.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Carl.Annison@great-yarmouth.gov.uk)  
 Tel: 01493 656854

E-Mail: [Cllr.Katy.Stenhouse@great-yarmouth.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Katy.Stenhouse@great-yarmouth.gov.uk)  
 E-Mail: [Cllr.antony.capewell@great-yarmouth.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.antony.capewell@great-yarmouth.gov.uk)

**Hopton North Ward:**

E-Mail: [Cllr.paul.wells@great-yarmouth.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.paul.wells@great-yarmouth.gov.uk)

**MP:**

Rupert Lowe  
 E-Mail: [greatyarmouth@reformuk.com](mailto:greatyarmouth@reformuk.com)

**Hopton On Sea**  
 RESIDENTS



**Selling Page**

**New Facebook page set up for Hopton Residents to sell unwanted items**

# What's on at Hopton Village Hall

FEBRAURY 2025

[www.hopton-on-seaVH.info](http://www.hopton-on-seaVH.info)

## Main hall

<b>Monday</b>	Baby Singing Group 9am to 11.45am Dance Academy 3.30pm to 7.30pm Badminton Club 7.30pm to 8.30pm
<b>Tuesday</b>	Latin Rhythms 9.30am to 10.30am NHS Private Hire 11am to 1pm Slimming World 5.30pm to 7.30pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	Pilates 9.15am to 10.15am Phoenix Karate 4.45pm to 8.15pm
<b>Thursday</b>	Pickle ball 10am to 12pm Badminton Club 12.30pm to 1.30pm Dance Academy 4pm to 4.45pm Yoga Sculpt 6pm to 7pm Zumba 7.15pm to 8.15pm
<b>Friday</b>	Baby Singing Group 9am to 11.45am Dance Academy 3.30pm to 6.30pm Youth Club 6.30pm to 9.00pm
<b>Saturday</b>	Dance Academy 8.30am to 3.30pm
<b>Sunday</b>	Available for private party hire

## Small hall

<b>Monday</b>	You and Me Moments 9.30am to 3.30pm Yoga 6pm to 7pm
<b>Tuesday</b>	Dance Academy 4pm to 6.15pm Warbling for Wellbeing 6.15pm to 7.15pm Spiritualist Church 7.15pm to 10pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	Dance Academy 6.30pm to 7pm Phoenix Karate Adult beginners 7.30pm to 8.30pm
<b>Thursday</b>	Dance Academy 5pm to 7pm Pilates 7pm to 8pm
<b>Friday</b>	Fifit Weight Class 9.45 to 10.45 Old Time Dance 2pm to 4pm Tai Chi 6pm to 7pm
<b>Saturday</b>	Mini Ballet 10am to 11am Dance Academy 11am to 12pm
<b>Sunday</b>	Spiritualist Church 6pm to 9pm

## How to contact Norfolk Constabulary

PLEASE REMEMBER IF AN INCIDENT IS  
ONGOING OR LIFE IS IN DANGER CALL  
999 IMMEDIATELY.

For non-emergency  
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# An account from my Aunt's notebook:

If you read *The Wraith of Marshfleet Manor* last month, you will know that I had an old aunt, who was a great collector of things. She was renowned for her meticulous records of local life, including many accounts of the people she came into contact with. As I was helping to clear her cottage after she had passed away, I came across a notebook on one of her bookshelves. On the front page, in my aunt's own distinctive, meticulous hand, was written the following:

"This ledger contains a number of unusual and unexplained stories that have been shared with me over the years. Although I cannot verify their verisimilitude myself, all, I consider, are from irrefutably reliable sources."



*The notebook.*

After the account of the wraith last time, I have delved once more into the notebook, and come across a tale from Great Yarmouth. Whilst, again, I have changed the names, in case there are still living relatives, I have kept the place, as it is an integral part of the record.

My name is Maud Wilson, I now live in Gorleston, but at one time, I lived with my mother and father in a small apartment in the grounds of Priory School. I have never married and nursed both of my parents in their final years. My father, Jeremiah, was an old soldier. During Victoria's reign, he had spent many years in one part of the British Empire or another, including in India, Sudan and Egypt. He was very good at his job, rose to the rank of Sergeant Major and was allowed to marry my mother, something that was rare in the army. We travelled with him for the first few years of my life, before a bad case of malaria meant he ended up being useless to the arm and in 1903, he was honourably discharged. . We came back home to Great Yarmouth and my father managed to find employment as a caretaker, odd job man and general dogsbody at The Priory School and museum. The chair of trustees was an old military man himself, Colonel William Goodwin and a letter of introduction from my father's old commanding officer was all he needed to secure the post and the small apartment that came with it. My father had seen all manner of horrors in his military career, and was not easily shaken. However, an incident that happened around 1920, towards the end of his employment there shook him, my mother and I to the core. He was a meticulous character, and it became a great wish to him, perhaps obsession, that he should write an exact account of what happened. I assisted him and he instructed me that I must promise to keep the account safe, until one day, when I felt the time was right and when I knew that I had identified someone of the utmost scruples and propriety, I must share it as a true record of those strange events.....

"I had been working at the school and museum for a number of years, I was known and respected by all, even if a little put upon at times. In part of the old priory building was a museum of curiosities. The children of the school loved it and the public were also allowed to visit at weekends. It contained all manner of things, part of a fossilised mammoth, exotic stuffed animals and birds from around the world, Greek, Roman, Indian & Egyptian artefacts; jars, small statues and parts of everyday ancient life. Pride of place though, went to a beautiful carved stone sarcophagus, reputed to contain the mummified remains of a princess of the Egyptian XIX Dynasty and discovered in Thebes. It was of great interest to the public and experts alike, and was considered one of the finest examples in existence.

For several weeks, there had been an increasingly strong and unpleasant smell in the priory building. Pupils, staff and the public had commented upon it, but it was

unclear where it was coming from. One day, I was approached by Colonel Goodwin, the chair of trustees for the museum and governor of the school.

"Ah, Wilson, we need to talk." He said to me in his clipped, precise voice.

"Certainly sir." I replied "How can I help?"

"It's this darned smell. It's extremely unpleasant and has been commented upon by a number of people, not least some important guests I was showing around the museum the other day. I want you to find out where it's coming from and ensure that remedial action is taken." he said.

"Certainly sir, In truth I have been trying to find out where it's coming from. I was wondering if perhaps an animal had got stuck and died."

"Good, make sure you give it your best attention, it needs to be sorted out as soon as possible." With that, he marched off towards the exit.

So, it fell to me to try and track it down. It wasn't easy, the smell filled the entire space of the priory building, but I worked meticulously and methodically, combing every inch of the ancient building. After a while, I discovered that there was a large patch of damp behind the sarcophagus. It seemed that the smell was coming from inside the case. Taking great care I gently prised the lid. It was very heavy, but even though I was invalided out of the army, I still considered myself to be a strong and determined man. I lifted the lid just a tiny amount and immediately I knew I had found the source. The stench nearly knocked me over. It was a cloying mixture of damp, rot and something else I couldn't identify. I quickly lowered the lid and prepared to report to Colonel Goodwin.

To my surprise and certain nervousness, he asked me to appear before the board of museum trustees to report what I had found. One evening later that week, I found myself in the priory meeting room reporting to the assembled group..

"So, I can confirm that the smell appears to be emanating from the sarcophagus. I believe that the damp problem has got in and has rotted the contents." I finished.

"This is appalling!" cried The Reverend Benning. "The sarcophagus is the greatest attraction of our little museum. Something must be done."

"I agree." said Colonel Goodwin. "But what?"

There was much discussion around the table. Finally Reverend Benning spoke up again. "The solution seems obvious to me. We must remove the princess. We must remove her and with the utmost care, we must give her a decent Christian burial. It is the only answer."



## Bereavement Cafes at your library

A time and place to meet and have a cuppa and chat with others who are bereaved.

### Great Yarmouth Library

Every Tuesday 10.30am – 12pm

### Gorleston Library

Every Thursday 2.30pm – 4pm

### Caister Library

Every Monday 11.30am – 1pm

### Martham Library

Every Friday 12.30pm – 2pm

**No need to book, just drop in.**

# The Priory Mummy Part 1



*The sarcophagus. Photograph taken by my Aunt in 1937. Whereabouts now unknown.*

There were murmurs of agreement around the table.

“But, what of our reputation? Said Colonel Goodwin. “This cannot become known, If we are not careful, we will be the butt of jokes for years to come!”

“I agree, replied the Reverend. This must be handled appropriately, but it must also be handled delicately.”

After more discussion, a plan was hatched. The mummy would be removed at night, when there were few people about to witness what was happening and it would then be transferred to a coffin to be buried. A minimum number of people would be involved, just myself, the Colonel and Reverend Benning. A grave would be dug in the churchyard of St Nicholas and a short but appropriate interment ceremony would be conducted. I would fill the grave and no further mention would be made of the incident.

So, I found myself late one evening in the company of Colonel Goodwin and Reverend Benning, where by lamplight, they ‘supervised’ whilst I carefully levered off the lid of the great sarcophagus. The stench was almost unbearable, I had tied a handkerchief around my mouth and the

Colonel and Reverend Benning held theirs up to their faces, but still it seemed to seep into every pore of my body. I managed eventually to get enough space to reach in and take the mummified remains of the princess. It felt very eerie, even the Colonel and Reverend Benning seemed badly affected by the goings on.

*To be continued.....*

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[www.dirt-busters.co.uk](http://www.dirt-busters.co.uk)  
 1 Dorking Road, Hopton, Gt. Yarmouth. NR31 9AZ.



## HOPTON MOBILE LIBRARY

The mobile library visits Hopton once per month.

The location and times are as follows:-

- 14:15 - 14:30** Lowestoft Rd.  
Opp White Hart  
NR31 9AH
- 14:35 - 14:50** Old Church Road,  
Lay By NR31 9BZ
- 14:55 - 15:10** Rogers Close  
NR31 9RP

**Next visits: WEDNESDAYS**

**19 February 2025**

**19 March 2025**

**16 April 2025**

Please note this information is subject to change or amendment both on a permanent and temporary basis. For all enquiries about this route please call NCC on 01603 222303



## The Honesty Book Exchange Point

There is an Honesty Book Exchange Point in the Village Hall for everyone to use. Bring in a paperback you have read, browse the books on the trolley, and exchange your book for another one. This is a community initiative at no cost. The village hall is open daily. Please remember to sanitise your hands before exchanging a book. No hardback books please, just paperbacks on exchange only.

Please do not leave books without exchanging.

# HOPTON-ON-SEA PARISH COUNCIL

Minute of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 13 January 2025  
commencing at 7.30pm at Hopton Village Hall, Station Road, Hopton-on-Sea NR31 9BE.

**Present:** Parish Cllrs: Jan Windsor-Luck (Chairman), Sue Hacon, Keith Bradley, Yvonne Bradley, Kevin Lee, John Plaskett, John Tonks.

**Also present:** Julie McNair, Officer of the Council and one member of the public.

The Chairman pointed out housekeeping matters.

1. **To receive apologies for absence.**  
Parish Cllrs. Steve Ames and Pam Oakes. County/Borough Cllr. Carl Annison.
2. **To receive declarations of interest in respect of items on the agenda and consider any requests for dispensation.**  
There were none.
3. **Public Forum.**  
In summary:-  
In answer to a query raised last month, GYBC responded that the Government are bringing in requirements that all Councils in the Country will have to instigate food waste collections from households. This is due to come into effect in the next couple of years. Whilst GYBC currently do not provide a food waste collection it will be something that they will be looking to instigate and is at the very early stages of planning.
4. **To confirm the Minute of the Parish Council Meeting held 9 December 2024.**  
It was proposed by Cllr. Lee and seconded by Cllr. Plaskett to approve the Minute. Agreed by majority vote.
5. **To receive County and Borough Councillors' Reports.**  
There were none.
6. **To consider the Clerk's reports.**
  - a) **Correspondence.** Listing as previously circulated. Several faulty street lights have been reported. New schedule for the SAM2 camera locations supplied.
  - Planning applications:**  
06/24/0960/CD Golf Club Warren Road. Discharge of Condition 3 of pp 06/20/0145/F (Change of use from agricultural land to golf course) - Submission of details to justify not providing any safety netting or further public safety mitigation measures for dwellings alongside Kennel Loke, based on analysis of golf ball flight and trajectories.  
06/24/0943/HH 5A Cliff Lane. Removal of existing render to walls and replace with timber-effect cladding. New covered veranda to front. No objection by the Planning Committee.
  - Permissions Granted by GYBC:** None
  - Planning Permissions Refused by GYBC:** None
  - c) **Finance. To agree January 2025 invoices for payment and bank reconciliation statement as at 31 December 2024.**  
Six payments and two direct debits totalling £2772.86 plus additional December 2024 payment of £155 as listed

from the business current account. It was proposed by Cllr. Plaskett and seconded by Cllr. K. Bradley to approve the list of payments and bank reconciliation statement. Unanimously agreed.

7. **To receive information and consider matters relating to the Millennium Garden/Ruin.**
  - a) **Litter and empty bottles.**  
Litter and empty alcohol bottles are continuing to be left in the lavender bed inside the ruin. This will be raised with Norfolk Constabulary at the next SNAP meeting.
8. **To receive information and consider matters relating to the Recreation Ground/Pavilion.**
  - a) **Defib monthly maintenance update.**  
Monthly maintenance carried out by Cllr. K. Bradley.
  - b) **Licence Hopton Harriers FC.**  
A query has been raised regarding the display of County FA notices. Following a brief discussion, it was proposed by Cllr. Windsor-Luck and seconded by Cllr. Hacon to gift the small noticeboard that is fixed to the front wall of the Pavilion building to Hopton Harriers FC. Unanimously agreed.
  - c) **Lease Recreation Ground.**  
Solicitors to the Parish Council have finally heard from GYBC's legal team that the Pavilion can be hired to non-profit organisations i.e. football team, Party in the Park but not for private parties. The new Lease is almost ready.
9. **To receive and consider updates from previous Minutes.**
  - a) **Grit bin Seaview Rise.**  
The bin has been inspected by two Cllrs. and no repairs are required at this time. There is no grit bin at the new housing development Bowlers Green. This will be added to the Policies & Finance Advisory Committee agenda.
  - b) **Meeting at GYBC Town Hall 9 January 2025 re: Final Draft Local Plan & Draft CIL Charging Scheme.**  
Cllrs. Windsor-Luck and Plaskett attended the meeting. Presentation slides from GYBC have been circulated. There are still traffic concerns regarding the development at Links Road with the level of building/housing. Clarification is to be sought regarding the actual number of homes as this has varied recently. The Parish Council will still have to bid for 15% of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) paid by the developer to GYBC. If a Neighbourhood Plan is in place that figure rises to 25%. However, the money can only be spent on play areas/equipment.
10. **To consider setting up a Working Party to look at safety/speeding in the village.**  
A few people have shown interest in being part of the Working Party. Matter carried forward to the February 2025 Agenda.

11. **To consider annual insurance renewal quote from Clear Councils Insurance.**  
The renewal is £1,583.70 which is an increase of £128.89. Renewal is due 21 January 2025. It was proposed by Cllr. Hacon and seconded by Cllr. Plaskett to proceed with the renewal quotation. Unanimously agreed.

12. **To consider staffing matters.**  
Minute of the Staffing Committee meeting held 4 January 2025, with recommendations, has been circulated. A resignation letter has been received from the Clerk and she will be retiring after 20 years' service. The Chairman thanked Julie for all her hard work and knowledge, and it was noted that she will be sorely missed.  
Following a brief discussion, it was proposed by Cllr. Tonks and seconded by Cllr. Lee that Cllr. Plaskett joins the Staffing Committee. Unanimously agreed.  
It was proposed by Cllr. Windsor-Luck and seconded by Cllr. Tonks to accept the Clerk's offer to assist with recruitment of a new Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer, for up to 12 weeks, on existing contract terms. Unanimously agreed.  
It was proposed by Cllr. Hacon and seconded by Cllr. K. Bradley that all other items as recommended by the Staffing Committee from advertising the vacancy, through pension, salary, holiday entitlement, job description, person specification, application form, interview procedure, appointment, training and handover be accepted. Unanimously agreed.  
In order to keep to a timeline, the Chairman will call extra-ordinary meetings as required.

13. **To consider a meeting date for the Policies & Finance Advisory Committee to discuss:**

- a) **Projects/Reserves**
- b) **Review of Village News magazine.**  
Following discussion, the meeting is scheduled for Monday 24 February 2025, 7.15pm in the Village Hall.

14. **To confirm the date and time of the next meeting of Hopton-on-Sea Parish Council. Monday 10 February 2025, 7.30pm in the Village Hall.**  
Confirmed. All residents are welcome to attend.

The meeting closed at approximately 8.05pm.

These Minutes are in draft format until approved at the next meeting. The Clerk to the Parish Council can be contacted in the following ways:- e-mail  
hoptonparishclerk@hotmail.com Tel: 01502 730768 (message service in operation).  
Address: Office at the Village Hall Station Road Hopton-on-Sea NR31 9BE. Office open Mon, Tues, Thurs, Friday 9.30am to 1.00pm (flexible). Website: www.hopton-on-seapc.info



## Chuckle Corner one liners



Any good jokes, or bad ones,  
please submit to

[hoptonparishclerk@hotmail.com](mailto:hoptonparishclerk@hotmail.com)

1. **Did you hear about the first restaurant to open on the moon?**  
It had great food, but no atmosphere.
2. **Why don't scientists trust atoms?**  
Because they make up everything!
3. **What do dentists call their x-rays?**  
Tooth pics!
4. **What did one ocean say to the other ocean?**  
Nothing, it just waved.
5. **What did the big flower say to the little flower?**  
"Hi, bud"
6. **What's the difference between a hippo and a zippo?**  
One is really heavy, and the other's a little lighter.
7. **Why should you never trust stairs?**  
They're always up to something.
8. **When does a joke become a "dad" joke?**  
When it becomes apparent.
9. **Why did the bullet end up losing his job?**  
He got fired.
10. **Why is Peter Pan always flying?**  
Because he Neverlands. (I love this joke because it never grows old.)

# Essential gardening checklist for February

## Flowers

- Cut down deciduous ornamental grasses left standing over winter, before fresh shoots appear
- Divide large clumps of snowdrops and winter aconites after flowering and replant to start new colonies
- Prune late-summer flowering clematis, cutting stems back to healthy buds about 30cm from the base
- Divide congested clumps of herbaceous perennials and grasses to make vigorous new plants for free
- Transplant deciduous shrubs growing in the wrong place, while they are dormant
- Pot up containers with hardy spring bedding, such as primroses, wallflowers and forget-me-nots
- Prune winter-blooming shrubs such as mahonia, winter jasmine and heathers, once they've finished flowering
- Cut back wisteria side shoots to three buds from the base, to encourage abundant flowers in spring
- Prune buddleja and elder to the base to keep these vigorous shrubs to a reasonable size
- Trim back ivy, Virginia creeper and other climbers if they have outgrown their space, before birds start nesting
- Cut away all the old foliage from epimediums with shears, before the spring flowers start to develop
- Sprinkle slow-release fertiliser around the base of roses and other flowering shrubs

## Fruit and veg

- Finish winter-pruning fruit trees and soft fruits, including apples, autumn raspberries and blackcurrants
- Chit first-early potato tubers, such as 'Foremost', by standing them in trays in a light, frost-free place
- Prepare veg beds for sowing by weeding thoroughly, then cover with a thick layer of garden compost
- Feed fruit trees and bushes by sprinkling sulphate of potash fertiliser around the base to encourage fruiting
- Sow mustard and cress in a small seed tray on a warm windowsill for pickings in just a few weeks
- Put cloches or fleece over strawberry plants to start them into growth and encourage an early crop
- Hunt out overwintering snails huddled in empty pots and hidden corners, to reduce populations. Find out more about how to deter slugs and snails from your garden
- Plant rhubarb into enriched soil, or lift and divide established clumps
- Check if old seed packets are worth keeping by sowing a few seeds on damp kitchen paper, to see if they germinate
- Start planning for your seed sowing year
- Protect the blossom of outdoor peaches, nectarines and apricots with fleece, if frost is forecast
- Plant bare-root fruit bushes, trees and canes, as long as the ground isn't frozen
- Inspect Mediterranean herbs for metallic green rosemary beetles if they start to look nibbled and tatty

**Snowdrops**  
Divide  
clumps of  
snowdrops



Hopton-on-Sea  
**Youth**  
club



**For anyone new to the Village, we are a non-profit club open on Friday evenings at the Village Hall during school term time, from 7pm until 9pm. Membership is open to youngsters from Hopton, Corton and Blundeston, currently Year 5 up to 17 years of age. Entrance fee is £2 per member.**

Members have a chance to make new friends and build on their social skills. They have access to play computer games, table football, pool/snooker, table tennis, board games and an array of arts and craft activities. Each week there is usually an assisted activity such as cooking or making slime/playdough. There are occasional events these have included a disco, a visit from the birds of prey and learning circus skills. There is also a tuck shop where members can buy an assortment of soft drinks, crisps, chocolate bars and sweets (free tap water is also available).

To ensure a smooth and quick entry into the club on a Friday night especially on these cold, dark nights, first time members must have:

- handed in a completed form to a volunteer at the youth club or posted in the village hall post box or emailed a copy to [hoptonyouthclub@outlook.com](mailto:hoptonyouthclub@outlook.com)
- had approval from a volunteer that your membership has been accepted
- been advised a start date

Members turning up at the door with their completed forms will be turned away as completed forms are required

prior to their first night so that administration for the new member can be completed. We only accept new members at the start of each term.

We will be closed Friday 21st February for half term.

Membership forms are required by the 14th February to start after half term on Friday 28th February. If this date is missed, you can enrol your child to start 25th April, please pick up a form from the Village Hall when we are there Friday's 6:30pm till 9pm until 4th April this can also be filled out at the time or alternately email [hoptonyouthclub@outlook.com](mailto:hoptonyouthclub@outlook.com) to be sent a copy. Completed forms can be returned during Youth Club times at the Village Hall, to the inbox or posted in the Village Hall post box. If this date is missed the next membership enrolment will be for June 2025.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer and help out on an evening, please call Liz on **07729 093748** or email [hoptonyouthclub@outlook.com](mailto:hoptonyouthclub@outlook.com), we look forward to hearing from you.

Facebook users, don't miss out on what is going on; please join the Hopton Youth Club Facebook group [www.facebook.com/groups/265693031523615](https://www.facebook.com/groups/265693031523615) and keep up to date with current events.



# HOPTON IN HISTORY

Ever wondered about Hopton in the past? Maybe you have stories and photos that tell some of our village history. If so, we want to hear from you. Hopton in History is a series that takes a look at events, characters or places from Hopton's past. If you'd like to contribute, send your photographs or recollections to [klee.hospc@gmail.com](mailto:klee.hospc@gmail.com). By Kevin Lee

## The Herring Industry (not strictly Hopton, but close enough!)

In December, I was asked by the staff at Ritson Lodge if I could give a talk about the herring industry of Great Yarmouth. Having, up to this point, known what would roughly fill one side of a post-it note on the subject, I paused for a moment, before shrugging my shoulders and accepting. What a good decision that was, as it led me on a voyage of discovery that was utterly fascinating. It also stirred some memories in the residents that really added a whole extra layer of colour. My reason for writing about this now is twofold, firstly to give a brief recount of what I found out, and secondly to ask the people of Hopton if they or anyone else in their family had any artefacts, photographs, stories or memories that they could share.

### The Humble Herring

I thought it would be a good place to start to actually find out about this humble little fish. Here are some of the things I discovered:

There are over 200 different species of herring, but only three are eaten by humans. These are the Atlantic, Pacific and the Aracunan.

Herring shoals can be as big as one cubic mile in size and contain over 1 billion fish.

Herring are very fast, they can swim up to 10 times their own body length (20-40cm) in just one second. The average herring weighs about 700 grams, but they can grow in excess of 1 kilo.

There are four main types of herring product. These are bloaters, red herring, kippers and scotch cure.

### An important staple food.

Records from the 13th Century show that herring was an important food in the medieval diet. In the year 1300 for example, King Edward 1 ordered 18,500 herring for his stay at Stirling Castle. The fish could be preserved easily in barrels with salt, meaning that they became a vital source of food, particularly in the winter months. In fact, many historians now believe that there is strong evidence that the herring trade was taking place as early as the 8th Century.

### Great Yarmouth Importance & Innovation.

All of this brings Great Yarmouth into focus. The great shoals could be found off the coast of Great Yarmouth in abundance. They were fiercely protected as they were so important. By 1344, Great Yarmouth had over 250 fishing boats, a higher number than any other port at the time apart from London. Not only that, Great Yarmouth had a thriving

import and export industry for wool, cloth and a whole wealth of other goods. This meant that the people of the town had become extremely skilled not only in fishing, but also in handling, storing and processing large amounts of different products. Generations of families handed down these skills, meaning it was dominant in the whole skillset of the town's population.

As well as being highly skilled, the fishing folk of Great Yarmouth were inventive. This meant that they were able to produce a new product, the 'red herring' named after the colour the silvery skin of the fish took on during the process of curing the fish in salt and then smoking it to preserve it.

Great Yarmouth's importance to trade is highlighted by the Free Fair that was held for 40 days every year in the area outside the city walls, known as the North Denes. Merchants travelled from all over Europe to take part and it became a really important place to be seen and to do business. Great Yarmouth became so prosperous that the town was able to provide the King with 43 warships and 1000 mariners for the Battle of Sluys in 1340. To show his gratitude, the King allowed the town to combine its own coat of arms (three herring) with that of the King (three royal lions) creating the town crest that we all know today.

### The arrival of the Scots & the heyday of the industry.

Fast forward to the Victorian period, fortunes had grown and waned in the meantime, but the industrial excellence and knowhow in the fishing business remained. Scottish fishermen followed the herring shoals around the coast of the UK and when they arrived in Yarmouth for the Autumn season, they found a town that held all the key ingredients for a large scale industry in place. These were excellent fishing grounds, a highly skilled and committed workforce, a large, first class harbour, and great facilities for gutting, packing, warehousing & exporting. This led to the heyday of the Great Yarmouth Herring Industry. By 1913, there were 1,163 fishing boats, 9,000 fishermen and over two miles of quay. The herring catch from the boats was measured in 'crans'. A cran weighed a little over 175 kilograms. The record daily catch lies with the boat 'The Boy Andrew' which landed 231 crans on November 5th 1936!



### The Herring Girls

One of the most famous elements of the industry were the Scottish herring girls. In 1913, 6000 of these women travelled around the UK, following the boats and the shoals. In Autumn, Great Yarmouth was their base and it was their job to gut and pack the fish. It was a highly skilled job, they weren't paid by how long they took, but how much they did. Their hands would be a blur as they did the job, all the time chatting with their thick Scottish accents. I was talking about this at Ritson Lodge and a couple of the male residents were very keen to tell me about their own memories when they were young boys. One told me how he learnt rude words from them, when he and his friends would tease them and pull faces. The workers, as well as hurling good natured expletives, would also flick the guts from the herring towards the boys! Another remembered hearing their thick Scottish accents on the bus. He said that nobody would want to sit next to them, even if the bus was busy, because of the strong smell of the fish.



### Decline and End

By the 1960's rising fuel prices and overfishing meant that the industry was seriously on the wane. The remaining few drifters cranned out their final catch in 1968. Today, there are only limited remains of a once great bustling industry. The Time and Tide museum is the best place to fully explore the story. There is a whole section of the museum devoted to the industry, as well as artefacts and interactive displays. There are actual original drying and smoking rooms incorporated into the museum and if you haven't been, I highly recommend it.

Do you have any memories or stories of this once great industry? If so, I'd love to hear from you. Maybe you know somebody from Hopton who was involved in the industry, there must have been, surely? Perhaps you have some photographs that could be published in the magazine? If you have, do let me know.

Email me on [klee.hospc@gmail.com](mailto:klee.hospc@gmail.com)



We are looking for **Volunteers** to join the board of Trustees

For more information, please call **01502 580942** or email [hoptonvillagehall@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:hoptonvillagehall@hotmail.co.uk)

**Village People**

**Village people** is an interview series about the people who live and work in Hopton. The questions cover a bit about what they do, why they do it, the things that are important to them and hopefully, a bit of humour too. Each month, I ask the same six questions.

This month, it's the turn of Julie McNair, Clerk to the Parish Council here in Hopton. Many thanks to Julie for agreeing to take part. If you'd like to have a go, don't hesitate to get in touch with me by email: [klee.hospc@gmail.com](mailto:klee.hospc@gmail.com)



**1. Describe Yourself in 5 words.**

Dedicated, honest/trustworthy, fun, happy, considerate.

**2. Can you say a little about why you chose those words?**

Dedicated because I have been Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer to Hopton-on-Sea Parish Council for 20 years. I have seen many Councillors come and go during that time. Most have been a pleasure to work with, some have been challenging, yet I have managed to stay true to the role and myself, during that time. I have helped many residents with enquiries and seen projects through from inception to completion.

Honest and trustworthy, aren't most people? Well no, unfortunately they aren't, so I had to include honest and trustworthy in my description.

For those who know me best, fun and laughter is in my DNA along with happiness. Considerate because I would like to think that most of the time I'm kind and considerate with family, friends, and those I meet through work.

**3. Tell us about a typical day in your life**

At the present time, I work in the Parish Council office at the Village Hall part-time and have done so for many years. Every day brings different enquiries and challenges. However, this is about to change and I'm looking forward to a long and happy retirement. I've recently moved house, so there is much renovation work to do, and I'd like to travel more. When it feels right, I will probably look at volunteering in the wider community.

**4. What's your favourite thing about the village?**

The old St. Margaret's Ruin on Coast Road is a fabulous part of historical Hopton, spending time within the walls of the Ruin where it's peaceful and calm. We are so lucky to live by the sea, with the ever-changing view through the seasons.

**5. What is important to you?**

The love and support of my partner, family and friends. Socialising and enjoying life.

**6) Tell a funny/ strange / unexpected story involving something that has happened to you.**

I took part in a female only driving challenge for charity, with a long-standing friend from school. We drove army vehicles, a bus, tractor, mini hovercraft and various lorries all under the supervision of officials at RAF Northolt, London. When it came to my turn to drive a refuse lorry with 16 gears and a load of knobs I must admit I freaked slightly. The lovely officer sitting next to me offered to change gears which left me to concentrate on steering the course. Luckily, I knew where the brake was because half way through we had to stop abruptly to allow a Royal Flight to take off from Northolt. It was a really fun day with lots of money raised for various charities.

# A little bit about Hopton-on-Sea village sign

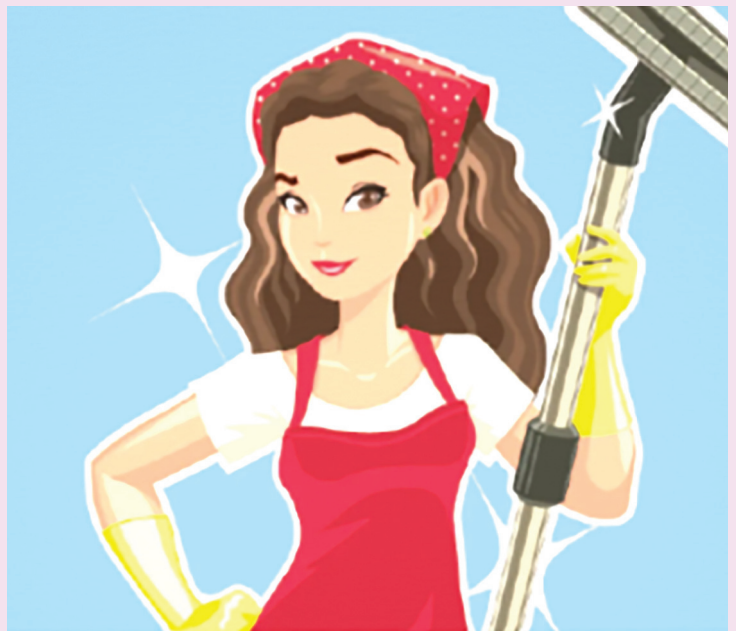


The carved wooden sign is a real work of art and beautifully executed. It has a wealth of detail and includes fishing boats and seagulls at the top, with rural scenes below and a mass of flowers and birds.

Two church are shown – St. Margaret's and the grade 11 listed old St. Margaret's Ruin.

The sign was erected to celebrate Queen Elizabeth 11 Silver Jubilee in 1977.

The sign is owned and maintained by the Parish Council and has been refurbished many times, the last one in April 2022, to keep it in good order.



## Angela's Cleaning Services

# Private Home Cleaning

**Dusting • Hoovering  
Mopping • Making Beds  
Bathrooms • Kitchen • Bedrooms  
Washing doors & inside windows**

Please contact me, Angela Barrett on 07748 076295  
[angelawheeler32@hotmail.com](mailto:angelawheeler32@hotmail.com)  
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